

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy shown to their attorney during a telephone interview on July 8, 2010. The participants were Examiner Jama and Douglas Agopsowicz, Reg. No. 56,792. The following includes a summary of the substance of the interview.

During the interview, the discussion focused on the rejections of claims 15, 16, 19, 22-25, and 27 based in part on Atarashi et al. (hereinafter, "Atarashi") and the rejection of claims 1, 28 and 29 under 35 USC 103(a) based on Sudo et al. (hereinafter, "Sudo") and Nobukiyo et al. (hereinafter, "Nobukiyo").

The effective date as a reference of Atarashi is February 4, 2004. The instant application claims foreign priority based on Japanese patent application number 2004-021198, filed January 29, 2004, and Japanese patent application number 2005-018149, filed January 26, 2005. A verified English translation of Japanese patent application number 2004-021198 was filed on August 24, 2009. Pending claims 1-18, 20-26, 28 and 29 are supported by Japanese patent application number 2004-021198.

With respect to the rejections of claims 15, 16, and 22-25 relying on Atarashi, it was agreed that these rejections should be withdrawn because Atarashi is disqualified as a prior art reference against these claims.

It was also agreed that, since claim 29 is a method claim that corresponds to apparatus claim 15, the prior art rejections of these claims should have been based on the same art. Thus, claim 29 should have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sudo in

view of Atarashi, and not under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sudo in view of Nobukiyo. Accordingly, it was agreed that the rejection of claim 29 should be withdrawn for the same reasons that the rejection of claim 15 should be withdrawn.

No agreement was reached regarding claims 1 and 28. Claims 1 and 28 and all dependent claims therefrom are now cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/James Edward Ledbetter/

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